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Title: Need to include 'Kok-Borok' language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution.

SHRI JITENDRA CHAUDHURY (TRIPURA EAST): Hon. Speaker Madam, this is the third time I am raising this issue. You will definitely consider that the language is the vehicle of the culture. Without development of the language and culture, development of any community is hardly possible. Kok-Borok is my mother tongue. It is one of the official languages of the State of Tripura and mother tongue of 1.5 million Tripuri population inhabiting in Tripura, Asom, Mizoram and six districts of Bangladesh. On behalf of the Kok-Borok speaking people, I am urging this demand to include it in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution. But all the time the reply I receive from the Ministry of Home Affairs is that one Committee was constituted in 1993 or some time. After that, there was no attempt to consider the demand of such languages.

The Kok-Borok-speaking people, the Tripuri community have ruled Tripura State for more than 1400 years. Now, Kok-Borok is taught up to, up to the post-graduate level in the Tripura Central University. There are a number of people who have been awarded by the Sangeet Natak Akademi in the field of arts and culture. Every year, more than a hundred titles are published and a couple of hundred music CDs, albums, etc. are also produced. That is why once again, I would like to appeal to the hon. Home Minister who is present here to consider this very sentimental issue of the Kok-Borok-speaking people, who are also called Tripuri people, in the State of Tripura, that it is recognized by the Government of India and included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

There are many other languages and language groups besides this. If they are not taken care of by the Government it would be very difficult for their survival in this era of globalization. So, this is my earnest request. I think the hon. Home Minister who is present here will give this due consideration.

With these words, I conclude. Thank you.

माननीय अध्यक्ष : श्री रोड़मल नागर, श्री सुधीर गुप्ता एवं डा. ए.सम्पत को श्री जितेन्द्र चौधरी द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ संबद्ध करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है।